

Provisional Vital Statistics for February 2005

Live births decreased in February as 6,743 Missouri babies were born compared with 7,573 one year earlier. However, cumulative live births for the 2- and 12-month periods ending with February both increased.

Deaths decreased for all three time periods shown below. For the 12 months ending with February, deaths decreased by 0.6 percent from 54,470 to 54,148.

The **Natural increase** in February was 1,806 (6,743 births minus 4,937 deaths). The rate of natural increase rose for all three time periods shown below.

Marriages increased slightly in February as 1,936 Missouri couples married compared with 1,908 in February 2004. January-February marriages spiked because of irregular reporting. For the 12 months ending with February marriages increased by 3.8 percent.

Dissolutions of marriage decreased slightly for the 12 months ending with February from 22,217 to 22,010. The marriage to divorce ratio increased from 1.86 to 1.95 during this time period.

The **Infant death** rate decreased for all three time periods shown below. For the 12 months ending with February, the infant death rate decreased from 7.8 to 7.4 per 1,000 live births.

PROVISIONAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR February 2005

Item	<u>February</u>				<u>Jan—Feb cumulative</u>				<u>12 months ending with February</u>				
	<u>Number</u>		<u>Rate*</u>		<u>Number</u>		<u>Rate*</u>		<u>Number</u>		<u>Rate*</u>		
	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Live Births	7,573	6,743	15.5	15.1	12,523	13,168	13.2	13.8	76,389	78,887	13.5	13.3	13.7
Deaths	7,018	4,937	14.4	11.1	11,487	10,370	12.1	10.9	54,470	54,148	10.1	9.5	9.4
Natural increase	555	1,806	1.1	4.1	1,036	2,798	1.1	2.9	21,919	24,739	3.3	3.8	4.3
Marriages	1,908	1,936	3.9	4.3	4,279	10,662	4.5	11.2	41,242	42,845	7.4	7.2	7.4
Dissolutions	1,901	1,738	3.9	3.9	3,392	3,483	3.6	3.6	22,217	22,010	4.0	3.9	3.8
Infant deaths	63	46	8.3	6.8	98	99	7.8	7.5	597	587	8.8	7.8	7.4
Population base (in thousands)	...	...	5,755	5,791	...	...	5,755	5,791	...	...	5,686	5,725	5,761

* Rates for live births, deaths, natural increase, marriages and dissolutions are computed on the number per 1000 estimated population. The infant death rate is based on the number of infant deaths per 1000 live births. Rates are adjusted to account for varying lengths of monthly reporting periods.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER - Services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.

Alternate forms of this publication for persons with disabilities may be obtained by contacting the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services, Center for Health Information Management & Evaluation/Section for Health Statistics, P.O. Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65102; phone (573) 751-6278. Hearing-impaired citizens telephone 1-800-735-2966.